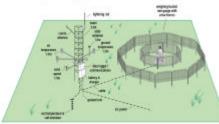
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service Climate Reference Network



Climate Reference Network Stations in Operation (Above and Below)



Proposed Typical CRN Station Configuration



The National Requirement: The Nation requires increased confidence in climate observations to reduce the uncertainty surrounding long-term climate trends. This will improve support for enhanced decision making by corporations, federal, state, and local governments affecting the economic well being of its citizens, prudent stewardship of natural resources, and protection of life and property. This improved ability can only be effected with the establishment of a climate-quality surface network that provides a continuity of observation that minimizes time-dependent biases.

NOAA's Response: NOAA is establishing a Climate Reference Network to provide future long-term (50-100 years) high-quality observations of surface air temperature and precipitation adequate to meet the exacting demands of climate science. When fully implemented, the network will consist of temperature and precipitation measurement instruments at approximately 250 geographic locations strategically selected to capture the representative climate regions of the Nation.

The Climate Reference Network will provide unique observation features such as: data and accuracy that extend over 50-100 years; management planning based on longevity, continuity, high quality, and science; accuracy tied to irrefutable standards (calibrations traceable to NIST standards); high standard of measurement accuracy defined, documented, and maintained; routine instrument upgrades, mandatory one year on site overlap period; rigorous maintenance program and periodic instrument recalibration/ replacement; and extensive documentation to include digital photographs and satellite images

Financing: The FY 2003 Budget includes \$0.5 million within the request for NOAA Data centers and Information Services, equal to the amount appropriated in FY 2002, to continue deploying the Climate Reference Network. An additional \$3.0 million for this effort is included in the funding requested for the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.